

**The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists**  
**Clinical Division of Forensic Psychiatry**  
**Core Competencies**

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Working group on core competencies:

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Objective 1: Demonstrate the ability to conduct interviews in forensic patients with complex medical and legal needs

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Develop an awareness of the impact of legal context on patient evaluation	Skillfully tailors the examination to the purpose, setting and context	Display an awareness of the complex needs for forensic patients during a psychiatric assessment
Understand issues of confidentiality and informed consent	Assess the safety of environment for patient consultation	Conduct examinations in accordance with the diverse needs of patients
Aware of the safety policies and procedures relating to patient consultation	<p>Elicit aspects of histories and the index offence for comprehensive assessment</p> <p>Ability to collate and integrate information from clinical, risk, and legal evaluation into a detailed formulation</p> <p>Explain the confidentiality issues in the assessment and appropriately obtain and document patient informed consent</p>	

Objective 2: Acquire knowledge and skills to assess a patient’s criminal responsibility and competence to be tried, and the applicability of different legal defenses

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
<p>Understand the relationship between the criminology of offences and mental disorders</p> <p>Understand different legal defenses and criteria relevant to forensic psychiatry</p>	<p>Undertake detailed assessment and obtain collateral information to arrive at a professional judgement on the relationship between mental disorders and offending behaviour</p> <p>Assessment including, but not restricted to, the following legal criteria or defenses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Fitness to plead</li> <li>2) Fitness to stand trial</li> <li>3) Diminished responsibility</li> <li>4) Insanity defense</li> </ol>	<p>Conduct assessment and examination in accordance with the request by Court</p>

Objective 3: Demonstrate the ability to conduct proper violent risk assessments in forensic patients and to assess their criminogenic needs

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Aware of the risk factors of violence in psychiatric patients	Proper assessment of the violent risk of a patient during clinical examination	Display the ability to properly assess the violent risk and criminogenic needs of a patient
Knowledge in applying different violent risk assessment instruments in forensic patients	Practical application of violent risk assessment instruments	Keep updated with the knowledge in violent risk assessment
Aware of the criminogenic needs in mentally disordered offenders	Assessment of the criminogenic needs of a patient and integrate it into the treatment plan, with an aim to reduce reoffending behaviour	

Objective 4: Demonstrate the ability to write a court report and to fulfill the role as an expert witness in court

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
<p>Understand the issues that have to be addressed in a court report</p> <p>Exercise professional knowledge and judgement, and apply knowledge of the Mental Health Ordinance in the preparation of a court report and as an expert witness in court</p>	<p>Proper writing of a court report</p> <p>Good preparation before testifying as an expert witness, so as to provide expert opinion in a professional and trustful manner</p>	<p>Maintain professionalism when writing a court report</p> <p>Testify as an expert witness within limits of expertise</p>

Objective 5: Demonstrate knowledge in the Mental Health Ordinance and other relevant legislations

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Demonstrate practical knowledge of the relevant mental health legislations, guidelines, policies, codes of practice and guidance relating to mental health, capacity, confidentiality, data protection, consent, human rights and public protection, etc.	Appropriately apply the relevant legislations in assessing, evaluating and management of a mentally disordered offender	Keep updated with the relevant legislations

Objective 6: Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with legal and correctional agencies

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Understand the roles and responsibilities of different disciplines and services involved in the care of forensic patients	Demonstrate proper and effective communication skills among different disciplines in managing forensic patients  Use of effective negotiation skills	Consideration of ethical issues, ability to uphold professional duties and integrity in face of clinical, legal and social pressure



Objective 7: Demonstrate knowledge in both criminal and civil offences related to psychiatry

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Demonstrate knowledge in criminal and civil offences in relation to mental disorders  Understand the principles of civil legal issues such as negligence, torture claims, etc., and their relationship with psychiatric practice	Application of relevant knowledge during the assessment of a patient	Continue to practice and develop a range of assessment skills catering to different situations

Objective 8: Demonstrate the ability to manage forensic patients in both correctional and psychiatric settings

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Understand the links between psychopathology, victimization, mental disorder and crime	Assess and manage of patients with multiple and complicated pathologies	Recognise the contribution of multidisciplinary team members when formulating the treatment plan
List the services and resources available for managing forensic patients	Formulate detailed risk management plan and implement the plan in a multidisciplinary approach	Keep updated with professional knowledge
Understand the balance between the primary duty of care to patients and protecting public safety, and take proper account of this in management plan formulation	Deliver evidence-based treatments with other relevant disciplines	Effective participation in multidisciplinary meetings
Apply contemporary knowledge and principles in the pharmacological and psychological treatments of a forensic patient	Treatment and prevention of victimization by individuals	
Understand the impact of imprisonment and litigation on those with mental disorders	Develop clinical effectiveness in the treatment and rehabilitation of forensic patients with chronic disorders	
	Manage psychiatric emergencies in both hospital and correctional settings	

Objective 9: To conduct research in the area of forensic psychiatry and to critically appraise research literature

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Attitudes demonstrated through behaviors</b>
Understand the specific features and difficulties in research on mentally disordered offenders	Ability to design and conduct research on forensic psychiatric issues  Application of the results of research in clinical practice	Keep updated with professional knowledge and participation in educational activities